

[24th March 1922]

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI:—"A point of order, Sir. The Council Secretary rises not from his seat but from the seat of another Member. Is he in order?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The rule that Members should rise from their seats is only for the poll. Only six hon. Members are for the introduction of the amendments to the Standing Orders. Therefore the hon. Mr. K. Srinivasa Ayyangar has not the leave of the House."

IV

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER:—"Sir, I beg to make the motion standing against my name:—

That with a view to the constitution, in pursuance of rule 33 of the Madras Legislative Council Rules, of a committee on Public Accounts for the year 1922-23, this Council do proceed on a date to be fixed by the hon. the President to elect seven members to be members of the said committee.

"In moving this proposition I should like to express my regret that it has been possible to make very little use of this committee of all the talents for the reason that the function of the committee is to examine the expenditure of the funds voted by the Council and that the accounts dealing with the first budget voted by the Council will not be ready till next September. We have done what preliminary work we could this year and there will be plenty of work from September onwards for the new committee."

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATA REDDI NAYUDU:—"I second it."

The motion was put and carried.

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I fix 6 p.m. to-day as the latest hour for nomination of candidates for election. If the nominations are sent to the Secretary, the time for the election, if necessary, will be fixed later on."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"I should like to know if any nomination forms are to be filled up?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"You have only to write in a piece of paper: 'I propose the following members as members of the Public Accounts Committee' and then fill in the names. The consent of the nominated member should be obtained before nominating him. I fix 6 p.m. to-day as the latest hour for the nomination papers to reach the Secretary so that hon. Members may have time for consultation. If the number of names proposed is equal to the number of seats, then there will be no election."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER:—"Would it be possible to give a little more time so that consent may be taken from Members who are not present to-day?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The Member nominating can in most cases anticipate the wishes of the Member whose name he proposes; he would ordinarily know whether his nominee would be willing or not. He can act upon that knowledge."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER:—"I only made the suggestion, Sir, because I feel responsible in a measure for springing this motion on the Council. There is no great hurry about the election of the committee. It will begin its operations only after April."

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The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"In view of the fact that we have to finish the agenda if possible before the prorogation of the session by His Excellency, I do not propose to postpone the date."

V

FINANCE COMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR 1922-23.

2-45 p.m. The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—"I beg to make the following motion :—

That in accordance with resolution No. 17, passed at the meeting of the Council on 1st April 1921, regarding the constitution of a Finance Committee, this Council do proceed, on a date to be fixed by the hon. the President, to elect six persons to be members of the committee for the year 1922-23.

"In so doing, I should like to say how much the Government appreciate the sacrifice of time and talents that has been made by the members of the existing Finance Committee, upon whom there has been imposed a very heavy burden of work since their appointment. They have held no less than 22 meetings, and I hope they will hold two more before the end of the year. They have digested a great mass of figures and have advised in great detail upon the budget as well as upon a large number of other matters perhaps most important of which was the question of the revision of the pay of the Madras city constabulary. I need hardly add that they have treated the Finance Department and the Finance Member with the greatest kindness and consideration, and they have our most grateful thanks for all the help that they have given us in our work. Their successors will, I am afraid, have an equally hard task, if not a harder one. But, as in the case of the Public Accounts Committee, they will not be asked to take it up until after the 1st April. As I have just said, I hope to secure the co-operation of the members of the existing committee for two more meetings, one for certain urgent grants which must be put forward before we finish our discussions, the other to examine the question of any changes that are needed in the budget procedure in the light of what has been said in the Council during the present debates."

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur :—"I second it."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"In supporting this motion may I be permitted to say that we, the members of the Finance Committee, have received always from the hands of the hon. the Finance Member, Sir Charles Todhunter, uniform courtesy and kindness. We troubled him very often with requests for information, and whenever the request was made he was always cheerfully complying with it. He placed the whole staff of his at our disposal, and he was always kind and ready to supply us with any information and to oblige us in every way. We take this opportunity of tendering our best thanks to the hon. Sir Charles Todhunter for all the kindness that we received at his hands during the last year."

The motion was put and carried.

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"Here again, I have to announce the time within which nominations have to be sent in to the Secretary. I fix 6 p.m. to-morrow as the latest hour for these nominations."